

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A method of evaluating the breath of a test subject, comprising the following steps:
  - a) collection of a breath sample from the test subject in a container,
  - b) reduction of the microbial load of the breath sample contained in the container, and then
  - c) evaluation by a tester of the breath sample collected in the container.
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that, in step a), the container is filled with breath by the test subject against atmospheric pressure by exhalation.
3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the volume of the container is variable, the container preferably being collapsible.
4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the container possesses an internal surface made of an odourless material.
5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the container is filled with 20 ml to 7 l of breath in step a).
6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the microbial load is reduced by condensation of moisture from the breath sample in the container.
7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the temperature of the breath sample is adjusted to a value of 20°C to 40°C before performing step c).

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterised characterized in that the test subject fills the container in step a) by exhaling through the mouth, and preferably after inhaling through the nose.
9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~one of the above claims~~, characterised characterized in that the breath sample is anonymised prior to evaluation.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating an oral care product, comprising the following steps:
- a) taking a first breath sample from a test subject by a method according to claim 1 ~~one of~~ ~~claims~~ ~~[[1 - 9]]~~,
  - b) subsequently administering the oral care product to the test subject,
  - c) taking an additional breath sample from the test subject using a method according to claim 1 ~~one of claims~~ ~~[[1 - 9]]~~ at a pre-selected time after administering the oral care product, and
  - d) comparing ~~comparison of~~ the first and the additional breath ~~sample~~ samples by a tester.